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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/511,911	08/18/2005	Ib Joergensen	17601.23a.1.1	4306
57360 7590 11/21/2008 WORKMAN NYDEGGER 1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER, 60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111				
EXAMINER CAMPBELL, VICTORIA P				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3763				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/21/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/511,911

Applicant(s)

JOERGENSEN ET AL.

Examiner

VICTORIA P. CAMPBELL

Art Unit

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-8,13 and 21-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-8,13 and 21-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is the initial Office Action following the Request for Continued Examination based on the 10/511911 application filed August 18, 2005. Claims 1, 3-8, 13, and 21-33 as amended and presented September 12, 2008 are currently pending and considered below.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 7 and 8 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to McGill et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1, 4-8, 21, 22, 24, 25, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 4,960,410 to Pinchuk in view of USPGPub 2002/0072730 A1 to McGill et al.

Regarding the above claims, Pinchuk discloses a balloon catheter comprising a catheter shaft having a distal end (24), an inflatable balloon disposed on the distal end (12), a proximal end coupled to a connecting piece (30), a guiding wire lumen (22), and an inflation lumen (52). Pinchuk further discloses that the guiding wire lumen has coupled proximal (60) and distal (64) portions wherein the proximal portion is made of a more rigid metallic material and the distal portion is made of a less rigid plastic material (Col. 3, line 65-Col. 4, line 11). However, Pinchuk fails to explicitly teach or disclose that a transitional portion is provided with kink protection at least partially overlapping the proximal and distal portions. However, McGill et al teach a kink protection portion (205) which extends over both a proximal and distal portion. They further teach a

second form a kink protection in the form of a metal coil (634), which the examiner believes could be placed inside or outside of the pipe.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the catheter of Pinchuk with the kink protection sleeve or metal coil of McGill et al in order to provide increased stability in the catheter when navigating tortuous regions.

6. Claims 13, 23, 26, 27, 30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinchuk and McGill et al as applied to claims 4, 21, and 24 above, and further in view of USPN 5,951,494 to Wang et al.

Pinchuk and McGill et al disclose all of the limitations of claims 4, 21, and 24 as described above, but do not appear to explicitly disclose a lubricity enhancing coating on the inner surface of the guidewire lumen. However, Wang et al disclose coating the interior of a catheter lumen with a tube of TEFLON (Col. 16, lines 60-64), which can extend for any length of the tube. Pinchuk, McGill et al, and Wang et al are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor/problem solving area of catheters. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Pinchuk, McGill et al, and Wang et al before him or her to modify the interior lumen of Pinchuk and McGill et al to include the coating of Wang et al because doing so can help facilitate the introduction of a guidewire through the lumen (Wang et al, Col. 16, lines 62-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Pinchuk and McGill et al with Wang et al to obtain the invention in the instant claims.

7. Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinchuk, McGill et al, and Wang et al as applied to claim 27 above, and further in view of USPGPub 2003/0050600 A1 to Ressemann et al.

Ressemann et al further teach the limitation of plasma treating for increasing adherence, which the examiner asserts would be possible to do on either the interior of the catheter or the exterior of the plastic tubing. The examiner further asserts that this process renders the plastic tubing adherent, thereby making the outer layer adhesive. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the coating techniques of Ressemann et al with the catheter as stated above in order to ensure good adhesion of the friction-reducing interior polymeric layer.

8. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinchuk and McGill et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of USPN 6,596,217 B1 to Davis-Lemessy et al.

Davis-Lemessy et al teach the use of a nylon tube in the construction of a catheter (Col. 4, lines 15-40), which is not taught by either Pinchuk or McGill et al. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the nylon tube construction of Davis-Lemessy et al in order to be able to fusion bond with nylon balloons (Col. 4, lines 15-40).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-8, 13, and 21-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VICTORIA P. CAMPBELL whose telephone number is (571)270-5035. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Victoria P Campbell
Examiner, AU 3763

/Nicholas D Lucchesi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3763